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A FRENCH Association for the Advancement of Science, has been started. The annual meetings will be held in the various towns and cities. Over 100,000 francs, in shares of 200 francs each, have already been subscribed by the *founders* of the Association.

THE Smithsonian Institution has recently succeeded in obtaining two complete skeletons of the remarkable tapir of the highlands of the United States of Colombia, known to naturalists as *Tapirus pinchaque* or *Roulini*. Previously only the skull had been obtained by Roulin, by whom it was first made known, and it was one of the rarities of the great anatomical collection at Paris. The Smithsonian Institution had before obtained a number of skulls and a skeleton of the still more remarkable tapir of Panama, which had remained undistinguished from the common species of Panama till within a few years, when first described, under the name of *Elasmognathus Bairdii*, by Prof. Gill, from two skulls in the Smithsonian collection. There are no external or dental differences between the tapirs corresponding with the marked differences in the skulls; the external differences being confined to the contour of the forehead, the color, and the character of the hair.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

SENSITIVE OAT.—The sensitive or animated oat, as it is usually called, is the fruit of *Avena sterilis* L. It is a native of the Barbary States and the region of Gibraltar, but as it is not unfrequently cultivated as a curiosity it has become sparingly introduced in many places. Although not often found in gardens in this region, there will be no difficulty in getting seed from any of the larger dealers or florists.—W. G. F.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Zoological Record for 1870; being vol. 7 of the Record of Zoological Literature. Edited by Alfred Newton. 8vo, pp. 523, cloth. London. Zoological Record Association. 1871.

Handbook of British Fungi, with full Descriptions of all the Species and Illustrations of the Genera. By M. C. Cooke. 2 vols., 8vo, pp. 981. 407 woodcuts and a colored plate, cloth. London and New York. Macmillan & Co. 1871.

The Metric System of Weights and Measures; an Address delivered before the Convocation of the University of the State of New York, at Albany, Aug. 1, 1871. By Frederick A. P. Barnard. Revised edition, printed by order of the Board of Trustees of Columbia College. 8vo, pp. 194. cloth. 1872.

Geological Survey of Ohio, Report of Progress in 1870. By J. S. Newberry, Chief Geologist. Including reports by E. B. Andrews, Edward Orton, J. H. Kippart, Assistant Geologists; T. G. Wormley, Chemist; G. K. Gilbert, M. C. Read, Henry Newton, W. B. Potter, Local Assistants. Columbus. State Document. 8vo, cloth, pp. 568, cuts with map packet. 1871.

Second Report of the Geological Survey of Indiana, made during the year 1870. By E. T. Cox, State Geologist, assisted by John Collett and G. M. Levette. 8vo, cloth, pp. 304, plates, cuts and maps. Also contains "Manual of the Botany of Jefferson Co.," by A. H. Young.

Sketch of the Botany of Pennsylvania. By Thomas C. Porter. (From Walling and Gray's New Topographical Atlas of Penn.) Folio. pp. 2, and map. 1872.

Notes on Podisoma. By M. C. Cooke. 8vo, pp. 14. 2 plates. London. 1871.

On Nucleated Sporidia. By M. C. Cooke. 8vo, pp. 4. London. 1871.